

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-52 are pending in the application. The Examiner additionally stated that claims 49-52 are rejected and claims 1-48 are allowed. By this amendment, claims 49-51 have been cancelled and claim 52 has been amended. Hence, claims 1-48 and 52 are pending in the application.

Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the foregoing amendments.

In the Claims

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-48 are allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejected claim 52 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 52 as amended recites statutory subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 49-51¹ under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ray, U.S. Patent No. 6,035,394 (hereinafter, *Ray*). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of claims 49-51. Although Applicant has canceled claims 49-51 and amended claim 52 for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent business Goals (PBG), 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000), Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections thereof. Furthermore, Applicant reserves the right and hereby provides notice of intent to file a continuation application during the copendency of this application, or other applications

¹ Although paragraph 6 of page 3 of the Office Action states claims 49-52 are rejected, it appears from the lack of explanation in the paragraphs that follow that the Examiner only intended to reject claims 49-51 as anticipated by *Ray*. This is likely since claim 52 recites limitations similar to those stated by the Examiner in paragraph 3 of page 2 of the Office Action as reasons for allowability.

disclosing the subject matter, to present arguments of patentability over the Examiner's stated grounds of rejection.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the arguments advance above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-48 and 52 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested, and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Applicant earnestly requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned practitioner by telephone if the Examiner has any questions or suggestions concerning this amendment, the application, or allowance of any claims thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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